



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE NABS CONVICTED CHILD PREDATOR IN ARKANSAS** *Sex crime against 13-year-old girl makes foreign national eligible for deportation*

FORT SMITH, Ark.—A Mexican national was arrested March 9 by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents following his conviction for sexual indecency with a 13-year-old girl.

As a convicted sexual predator and a foreign national, Ivan Uribe Fernandez, 20, is now in ICE custody and is eligible for deportation back to Mexico. He was convicted Jan. 26 and was sentenced to 67 days confinement, a 72-month suspended sentence, and two years probation.

"I commend ICE agents and officials for getting a dangerous, convicted sex offender off the streets before he could harm children in the Fort Smith area," said U.S. Representative John Boozman (R-Ark). "Operation Predator is a good program that ensures that convicted sexual predators from abroad do not slip through the cracks and prey on children in America's towns and cities."

"Protecting our children is an important step in helping make our nation more secure" said Michael A. Holt, Special Agent-in-Charge of ICE's New Orleans Office of Investigations, whose area of responsibility includes Fort Smith. "Those who victimize the most vulnerable among us will be sought out, apprehended and removed."

Fernandez has been placed into removal proceedings from the United States, and is now being detained in the Tensas Parish Detention Facility in Waterproof, La.

This arrest is part of ICE's Operation Predator, a comprehensive national initiative to protect young people from sexual predators. Operation Predator targets human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,100 individuals and deported more than 2,100 foreign nationals. In Arkansas, 48 arrests have been made under Operation Predator thus far.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the web at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov). ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*